NEWS BRIEFS

AIDS alert: Government representatives from Benin, Congo, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia, and officials from the Global Programme on AIDS, the World Health Organization and UNICEF met in April in Tunis to discuss 'AIDS and the Child in Africa'. The delegates signed a declaration committing themselves "to guide and support appropriate responses to the needs of affected children covering social, legal, ethical, medical and human rights issues." The declaration also committed them to make substantial budgetary provisions for preventive programmes among children and for the care and support of those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Narino Accord: Representatives from more than 28 countries of the Americas including the United States pledged their commitment to the region's children in the Narino Accord, signed at the end of the Second Meeting on Children and Social Policies in the Americas, in April in Bogotá. The document reaffirms the mid-decade and year 2000 goals and calls for plans of action for children to be incorporated into national development plans and policies. The Narino Accord will form part of the Declaration of the Ibero-American Summit in Cartagena, which will in turn become part of the Andean Parliament's input to the World Summit for Social Development.

Award for James P. Grant: UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant was awarded the U Thant Peace Award in September. Given by the Peace Meditation group at the United Nations, the award honours the work of an individual or an organization for world peace. Other recent recipients include Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Mikhail Gorbachev. The award was presented by Sri Chinmoy, leader of the Peace Meditation group, who cited Mr. Grant as an "inspirational example" of "compassion, concern and tireless energy in service to the world family."

New leader for Rehabilitation International: Ms. Susan Parker, former Disability Commissioner of the US Social Security Administration, has been appointed Rehabilitation International's (RI) new Secretary General. The group is a federation of national and international organizations and agencies working to prevent disabilities and rehabilitate people with disabilities throughout the world. Its membership includes 165 voluntary organizations and government agencies and it is active in more than 90 countries.

Health care on the move: Lifeline Express, the first and only hospital train in the world, was awarded this year's Golden World Award for excellence in public relations practice as well as the International Public Relations Association (IPRA) United Nations Award. Lifeline Express is the brainchild of IMPACT India Foundation.

The train, which consists of three first-class coaches donated by Indian Railways and outfitted as surgical and medical wards, travels along India's 65,000 kilometres of track, serving rural dwellers, many of whom are too poor to travel to a large city for medical care. The physicians of Lifeline Express have examined more than 50,000 patients and performed 10,000 operations in the three years the train has been running. Adapting the idea, IMPACT plans to build a hospital barge in Bangladesh, to carry doctors to those who would otherwise remain untreated.

BOOKS

The new publication ***From Adjustment to Development in Africa: Conflict, Controversy, Convergence, Consensus?*** examines the principal sources of agreement and disagreement among policy makers concerning the current economic problems of sub-Saharan Africa. Distinguished international and African authors, including economists from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank as well as their critics, address key policy issues in agriculture, trade, macroeconomic management, social issues, privatization, external capital flow and political economy. An introductory essay searches for areas of consensus and identifies those of continuing controversy.

Edited by Giovanni Andrea Cornia and Gerald K. Helleiner, this publication (MacMillan, UK: hardcover £45.00 or paperback £14.99) is available in the US through St. Martin's Press, 257 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10010. All other countries contact Jackie Parry, MacMillan, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2XS, UK, telephone: 0256.29242; fax: 0256.28339.

A new UNICEF discussion paper, ***Child Labour and Basic Education in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Proposed UNICEF Initiative,*** draws attention to the close link between child labour and basic education. The paper outlines a proposed action programme for UNICEF and its partners, including specific measures to combat child labour.

Available from the UNICEF International Child Development Centre, Piazza S.S. Annunziata 12, 50122 Florence, Italy, fax: 39-55 244 817.

Facts Have Faces gives key facts, related resources and suggestions for action on a variety of issues, including the environment, hunger, women, water, refugees, street children, illiteracy and debt. The series is prepared by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

For copies, contact the Office on Global Education, Church World Service, 2115 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218-5755, USA.

Learning to Listen to Mothers: A Trainers' Manual to Strengthen Communication Skills for Nutrition and Growth Promotion outlines the results of a two-day workshop for field supervisors and community health workers in which nutrition and health workers in the field learn how to listen to a mother's point of view, how to communicate effectively with her, how to help her evaluate the situation and make decisions for herself about nutrition problems. The manual was designed by the Nutrition Communication Project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). *For a copy, contact: Cindy Arciaga, Academy for Education Development, 1255 23rd Street N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20037, USA. fax: 202-862-1947. Free for organizations or individuals in developing countries; US$4 for all other orders.*

We Will Never Go Back is a case-study produced by UNICEF of the successful social mobilization component of the Child Survival and Development Programme in Tanzania. Begun in 1983 in Iringa, the programme is now reaching well over half of the child population and is heading for national coverage. Aided by the programme's strong focus on community empowerment, Tanzania has reduced severe malnutrition in the project areas from 8 per cent to below 2 per cent.

For copies, contact: Programme Communication/Social Mobilization Section, DH-40F, UNICEF New York.

Extending UNICEF's electronic reach

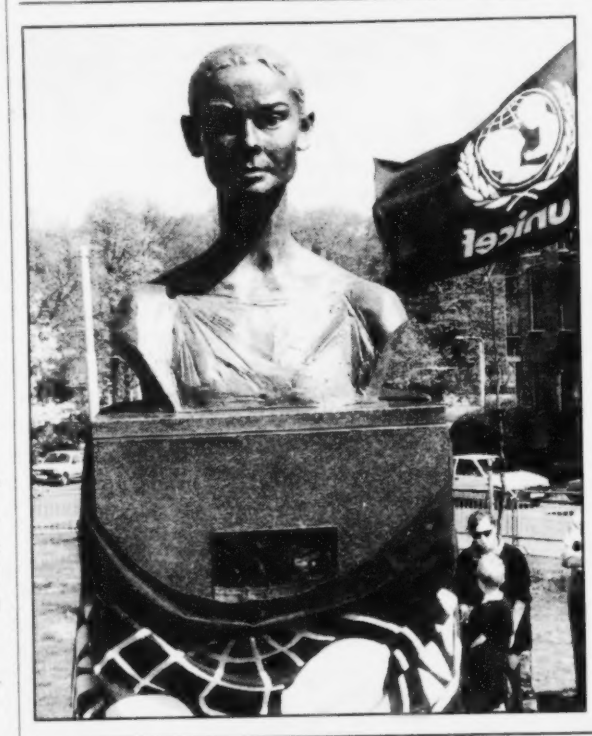
continued from page 10

full-text files — in the case of UNICEF, to information on programmes and activities and child-related issues. In the first month alone, the UNICEF Gopher attracted 1,200 log-ins, with many users retrieving *The Progress of Nations* texts, thus making it the most popular of the items available on the service. Log-ins and file retrievals are expected to increase in frequency and number as the Gopher becomes better known and as UNICEF develops this service and explores other, even more user-friendly ways of presenting its public information on the Internet.

In preparation for the installation of local area networks (LAN) in UNICEF House and direct DOI access to the Internet, DOI — again with assistance from the IRM Office — has compiled a full-text infobase that can be searched with a very user-friendly software programme called Folio Views. Such infobases will be put on the LAN server so as to facilitate research, retrieval and compilation, at first within and later beyond UNICEF House.

Wide audiences already exist, linked electronically by innumerable networks. They include NGOs, academics, journalists, politicians and students — all partners or possible partners from the UNICEF perspective. The gains are potentially immense from an information and advocacy point of view if we are prepared to make a significant investment of attention, time and money at this stage when 'critical mass' in global electronic information and communication is accelerating.

Edgar Koh is an editor in the UNICEF Division of Information, New York.



In honour of Audrey Hepburn

A bronze bust of Audrey Hepburn, actress and Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, was unveiled on 23 April 1994 in Arnhem (the Netherlands), where she lived with her mother during the Second World War.

The international film star and Academy Award winner, who died in January 1993, had dedicated the last years of her life to UNICEF. She helped to raise not only funds but also the conscience of the world community.

Seminar links children and environment

UNICEF Damascus and the Arab Writers' Union jointly organized a seminar entitled 'Child and Environment' in August this year to focus awareness on the environment and the urgent necessity to protect it.

Widely attended by writers, members of the media and NGO representatives, the seminar examined themes such as environmental pollution, the dangers of unsafe water and food, how children are affected by environmental degradation, and the role of the media in creating environmental awareness.

Saying that preservation of the environment is everyone's responsibility, Mr. Hussein Bin-Humam, UNICEF Assistant Representative, urged writers to help prevent environmental degradation through their literary endeavours.

Speakers contended that the environment encompasses social, health, psychological and cultural issues. Dr. Said El Haffar, an environmental consultant and teacher at Damascus University, emphasized the negative impact of television commercials on children and stressed the importance of the family.

'Children in war' study

continued from page 1

senting a wide range of cultural, social, psychological and geopolitical perspectives, and a Technical Advisory Group, comprising international experts, will also guide and facilitate the undertaking. The General Assembly has requested Member States, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization, the International Red Cross and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the study.

Mrs. Machel and investigators will make field trips and visits, including journeys to areas of current or past conflicts, and will speak with a broad range of officials and community members in the course of the study. Representatives of health and social welfare ministries, NGOs, youth and community associations, religious groups and the media will be included. Members of the military from different countries will also be consulted about ways of enforcing international human rights, humanitarian law and other protective measures.

Children and armed conflicts at the war's end

By Lucy Cummings

As increasing numbers of armed conflicts worldwide draw the full energies of the international relief community, the host of diverse and devastating long-term postwar problems for children is all too easily forgotten. With the number of refugees and internally displaced having risen to an estimated 49 million, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, it is also easy to be overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem. And because rehabilitation and reunification are so painstaking and so much less dramatic than emergency operations, they receive less media and hence less donor attention. The international community needs to combat this "out of sight, out of mind" mentality and invest more in helping children and their families rebuild their lives and communities.

This was a major message of a day-long conference sponsored by the Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict of the NGO Committee on UNICEF. It took place on 16 June in observance of both the Day of the African Child and the International Year of the Family. Postwar reunification and rehabilitation of refugees and the internally displaced emerged as critical issues for children and ones that pose special challenges for NGOs.

Reuniting children and their families

Separation from one's family may be the most traumatic aspect of war for children, according to Dr. J. Kirk Felsman, who has worked for years with unaccompanied minors in Angola and Mozambique with Save the Children.

Tracing children's parentage is neither easy nor fast, he said. "NGOs cannot walk in, collect data and leave. They must commit themselves to a lengthy, painstaking process that requires extreme patience and flexibility." Careful information gathering is critical, he added, and mistakes can prove costly.

Children under stress take a long time to tell their stories fully and truthfully. They may forget or 'alter' information, or change their names or ages out of fear or mistrust. Definitions of 'orphan' and 'unaccompanied minor' differ from country to country. And even when tracing yields results, it is common for children not to 'recognize' family members.

NGOs need to be careful about interim and substitute families. Motives must be carefully examined; affiliation cannot be assumed. While material aid may be necessary, children should not become material 'assets', taken in for their monetary or in-kind value.

Dr. Felsman stressed the importance of paying careful attention to the needs of adolescents, who can easily fall through the cracks as intervention efforts focus on primary school children and training adults. Programme officers must avoid the temptation to be paternalistic with teenagers, he said, adding, "They are smart, tough and ingenious in their coping ability and they long to feel competent." NGOs need to build their trust and can help teenagers see themselves as productive members of the community by encouraging them to participate in delivering services, developing programmes and working with younger children.

Using the CRC as a guide

Despite all these difficulties, said Dr. Felsman, "reuniting families is still the best intervention for the child" — a position with strong support from the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Articles 7 and 8 underscore the importance of national identity for a child's well-being. The Convention recognizes that the family provides the best environment for a child's full development and obligates States to provide rehabilitative care (article 39) for child victims of war, while helping them to find their families (article 22). In the post-conflict rehabilitation process, the CRC provides NGOs with specific guidelines for rehabilitative care.

Community reconciliation

Demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants make up another aspect of post-conflict work that is of crucial and challenging concern to NGOs. "This is a brand new and difficult area for NGOs," said Peter Shiras, Director of Catholic Relief Service's Public Policy Liaison Unit, but it is vital "to our efforts in preventing violence from re-erupting.

"What makes it so difficult," he said, "is that NGO field officers have traditionally avoided any association with combatants from either side. Any relationship with the military is seen as inconsistent with their humanitarian mandate," he said. But since no UN agency has a special mandate to deal with this group, NGO participation is critical, said Mr. Shiras.

Child soldiers, he added, need special attention. "Triply handicapped, they suffer from value distortion, psychosocial wounds and separation from families and schools." In the competition for scarce resources during post-conflict rebuilding, child soldiers, along with other ex-combatants, are often excluded and isolated by the community. NGOs should make every effort to include them and incorporate conflict resolution techniques into all of their reintegration and development programmes.

Both Mr. Shiras and Dr. Felsman stressed the central role of the local NGOs in the postwar process. Successful reintegration, said Mr. Shiras, requires not only disarmament, legal registration, counselling and vocational training for the ex-soldiers, but also extensive reconciliation work within the host communities. "Indigenous NGOs are in the best position to help," he said. "As members of the communities themselves, they best understand the dynamics of community reconciliation and social reintegration."

The Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict of the NGO Committee on UNICEF invites interested NGOs to become active members. Please contact Lucy Cummings, International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB), telephone: (212) 355-3992; fax: (212) 754-4674.

The legacy of violence

Hlengiwe Mkhize is a psychologist and Director of the Children and Violence Project in South Africa, formed in 1992. She was an active participant in the 25 May Symposium, 'Creating Violence-Free Families', which took place only a month after the historic free elections in her country. NGO Action for Children talked with her about the relationship between state and family violence and the challenge of confronting this devastating legacy.

Is family violence a problem in South Africa?

Very much so. Clinical evidence shows a high incidence of domestic violence and its clear link with state-initiated violence. The family unit becomes a culmination of stress and a fertile ground for multiple, often violent, conflicts. It just hasn't received the attention it deserves because our focus has been on racial oppression and political violence.

How does family violence manifest itself?

In a variety of ways. Because of forced migration and detention, men are either working in mines or on farms, isolated from their families, or unemployed, without any say in any aspect of their lives. This produces a kind of brutality in which the only way for a man to exert power is to dominate and control the weaker ones — women and children. Rape, in this way, has became a symptom of state violence. The National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders estimates as many as 300,000 women, and an increasing number of young girls, are raped each year in South Africa.

South Africa, like many other countries, is plagued by extensive wife-battering as well as the abuse of children who grow up in alcoholic and violent families.

Men are by far the majority of perpetrators but women also commit violence, especially against their children. The growing number of single-parent, female-headed households has led to extreme poverty and stress, which in turn leads to violent behaviour.

What is the focus of the Children and Violence Project?

Now that the political struggle is over, we plan to concentrate on family violence and the importance of investing in childhood. We not only have treatment in mind but also development. The family, preschool teachers, ministers, all have the responsibility of moulding a young person. They need to be supported and empowered to reclaim their role in society.

How did the Project begin?

When the political exiles returned to South Africa, I was one of a team identifying and helping solve their

continued on page 14

Books and publications

Refugee children: More than half of the world's refugees, currently estimated by UNHCR at over 23 million, are children. Sudden and violent emergencies, family disruption, separation and loss all affect the physical and psychosocial well-being of refugee children, deeply and often permanently. Helping these children while they are with their families and communities is the central concern of this new publication of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, ***Refugee Children: Guidelines on Protection and Care***. The book addresses children's developmental needs, special concerns of gender and culture, particular needs of unaccompanied minors and the problems that arise during repatriation and reintegration. It includes a special section on refugee children in the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties. It reminds the reader that the major innovation of the Convention is that it replaces the concept of children's needs with the concept of internationally recognized legal and human rights.

Copies are available from UNHCR, Case postale 2500, CH-1211 Geneva 2 Depot, Switzerland.

NGOs and the CRC: The publication '***A Guide for NGOs Reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child***' describes the Committee's operational procedure and step-by-step process for NGOs who wish to report to the Committee. The publication includes detailed guidelines for NGO reports and follow-up action. A must for any NGO interested in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The report is available from: NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, c/o Defence for Children International, PO Box 88, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. Tel: 41.22.734.05.58; fax: 41.22.740.11.45.

Children and AIDS: The *European Forum on HIV/AIDS Children and Families* newsletter addresses the social and educational needs of children affected by AIDS, either their own illness or that of a family member or friend. Published in five languages, the publication welcomes comments and contributions. The Forum is seeking input for its database of European agencies concerned with children and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

Contact: Naomi Honigsbaum, European Forum on HIV/AIDS, Children and Families National Children's Bureau, Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE, UK. Tel: 71 278 9441; fax: 71 278 9512.

A Modern Form of Slavery: Trafficking of Burmese Women and Girls into Brothels in Thailand is a highly readable, comprehensive study of the trafficking of thousands of Burmese women and girls into Thai brothels every year. There, illegally confined and physically abused, they work under conditions tantamount to slavery. Through in-depth interviews and background research, the book documents the extensive human rights violations against these women. It presents detailed recommendations to the international community for improving the protection of women and girls and ensuring the prosecution of their abusers.

Published by Asia Watch, Division of Human Rights Watch, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017, USA. Cost: US$15 plus 20 per cent for shipping.

The legacy of violence

continued from page 13

problems — getting them identity cards, housing, taking care of their emotional needs, setting up informal networks and family support groups.

We began to see different groups of children who needed help because of the political violence: those returning from exile as orphans; internally displaced children whose communities had been destroyed; those who had fled from the police; children on the street; child workers; children who had been in prison.

How did the issue of family violence emerge?

Our main concern was political violence. Then people began to talk about children exposed to violence in their families. We began to see a lot of wife-battering — even among politically sensitive people — which caused us great concern.

We saw teenagers, badly brutalized by the state and involved in brutal acts of their own, adolescents who are now beginning to have their own children. During the long period of violence, slogans or euphemisms were used — like 'elimination', instead of killing, or 'necklacing' which means putting a tire around a person's neck and burning them to death. This meant you didn't have to feel guilty because you didn't use the real word. Adolescents would see a comrade injured and would kill him rather than let him be tortured.

If we want the culture of violence to stop, we need to help these parents of tomorrow treat their own children differently from the way they themselves were treated.

During the political struggle, children began to form their own networks. They wouldn't rely on parents when making decisions, but would turn to their comrades for survival techniques. Even in choosing schools, parents no longer decided. The children would tell each other, "Don't go to that school, you'll get killed."

For the majority of young people, these things have become a peer responsibility. They are not discussed in families. This makes sense from a political point of view, but it further disempowers families that are already disempowered.

What is some of the work that needs to be done in South Africa?

We have to tackle the gender issue with at least the same energy that we did racial oppression. It was easy with racial oppression because everyone agreed that something was wrong. But given the fact that neither our political leaders nor our organizations have a history of taking gender issues seriously, I think it will be difficult.

The girl child is at risk in a variety of ways. She is a victim of incest, of rape both within the family and outside, and vulnerable to different kinds of sexual harassment in the workplace. When boys and girls discuss detention and torture, or abuse at home, boys explain that they are beaten, kicked or tortured in physical ways, while the violence experienced by girls will more often be rape. Sex in this manner is not an act of love but of aggression. Because of this, many girls grow up confused about their own sexuality.

The girl child needs to be empowered. Young girls need to realize they can choose what they want to be in life, rather than being socialized towards motherhood alone. They need to realize they can play other roles in society — for example, a mother who decides to be also a full-time politician or a professional. These things need to be discussed.

How does family violence and the legacy of violence in South Africa affect the development of women and girls?

Family violence depletes a woman's energy and self-esteem. It's a risk for all children who grow up in that setting. Boys will grow up having no respect for women. Girls will grow up seeing themselves as very vulnerable.

I think of the violent family as the worst enemy of any feminist. It undermines what feminists are fighting for on a daily basis: that women deserve to be treated with dignity and equality. Statistics have shown that the perpetrators of family violence are mostly men, whomever they direct it against — women or children.

Concentrating on family violence, rather than on violence against individual women, will widen the long-standing debate among feminists concerning the family as a unit of society. "If this institution is so destructive," many women ask, "are we not better off without it?" Whatever name we give it, there will always be an adult serving as a model or taking care of a child in some way — be it a mother, a neighbour, a teacher, a minister, a young man in a bookstore.

Looking at family violence will help us broaden our understanding of what we mean when we talk about families. Instead of throwing out the institution, maybe feminists will begin to ask, "What do we do with violent adults?" We need to look at women as members of families, not to isolate them even further.

What about the perpetrators?

Part of our programme is to run groups for men and boys to learn what goes on in their minds and to help them understand that they are part of the problem. We help them understand where that problem comes from and that there are other solutions.

Now, when a woman says, "We've got to go for counselling," her man says, "*You* should go." With all my cases, the woman tells me that the man tells her, "You definitely need help. I've never seen you so miserable. You're so unhappy, so unloving." It is all her problem. As long as the man remains out of it, he is all right and the woman is not. We cannot leave the men out.

How will you hold your new Government accountable for addressing this issue?

They know the huge sacrifices made by the women of South Africa, that strategically they put aside the gender issue in the struggle for liberation. So the Government stands accountable and must join hands with women in confronting this issue.

And if they don't?

We simply won't vote for them again in the next election.

For more information, contact: Hlengiwe Mkhize, Director, Children and Violence Project, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

UNICEF/Bass

Women and children bear some of the highest costs of war. Here a woman seeks help for her malnourished child in the nutrition ward of a hospital in Afghanistan.

Projects that are changing lives

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

Studies show that young women may be particularly vulnerable to drug abuse, since social conditioning encourages them to hide their habit. Many female drug abusers turn to prostitution as the only way to earn enough money to support their habit, which in turn exposes them to violence and exploitation, as well as AIDS and other diseases. At the mercy of their addiction, these young women take life-threatening risks. One way to help stop this widespread problem before it takes hold is through fostering awareness, self-esteem and a sense of responsibility.

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has developed a variety of projects to do just that. These programmes help girls gain more control over their lives, offering them opportunities to meet, organize and gain self-confidence. Research indicates that practice in decision-making helps young people avoid being drawn into the world of drugs. Girls and young women need to develop the ability to make wise choices and gain the confidence that they can exercise control over their future to help them resist the pressure to experiment with drugs.

Programmes in Costa Rica, Honduras, Hong Kong, Paraguay, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Turkey and the USA include seminars and conferences, films, plays, study courses, street campaigns, competitions and contests to prevent drug abuse and illustrate its dangers to girls and young women.

For more information, contact: WAGGGS, World Bureau, Olave Centre, 12c Lyndhurst Road, London NW3, 5PQ, UK.

Children of Chota Valley

The International Voluntary Services' Chota Valley Community Health Project, located in Andean Ecuador, is working to improve the health and nutrition of local residents.

Chota Valley comprises 30 communities of approximately 10,000 people whose ancestors were brought from West and Central Africa in the 17th century to work in vineyards and on sugar plantations.

Today the region, lacking badly needed resources, exists on subsistence farming and small, underproductive family plots.

Families have annual incomes of US$150 and average 10 members. Close to 20 per cent of children die before their first birthday; half the children are sick and malnourished. The most common illnesses — gastroenteritis, respiratory problems, measles, parasites — and other diseases worsened by malnutrition are preventable. Most result largely from the community's lack of education and basic services, the indiscriminate use of pesticides, alcoholism and poor nutrition.

The local doctor, Ofelia Lara, has been providing technical assistance to the NGO by training local women to become health extension workers. The women learn about illness prevention and the importance of nutritious diets by growing fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants and raising small animals. In 1993, 48 per cent of the population was immunized against tuberculosis, polio and measles, all births were attended, the community was learning about family planning and 28 women were trained as the first health promoters in the region.

IVS plans to continue its work in Chota Valley, starting a new gardens and nutrition project in late 1994 to further promote healthy diets for the residents.

For more information, contact: IVS, 1424 16th Street NW, Suite 603, Washington, D.C. 20036, USA.

Building from below: Education in Pakistan

To ensure girls' education, you don't need consciousness-raising, according to Professor Anita Ghulam Ali, Managing Director of the Sindh Government's Education Foundation in Pakistan. Awareness among villagers is already quite high, she said. "What you need is leadership and integrated development."

Ms. Ali refers to her experience with the Bachel Goth Samaji Sangat and the Soormin Sath Welfare Association, two NGOs active in 14 villages east of Karachi. They approached her for aid after reading about the Foundation's request for applications for primary education projects.

But the help sought by the two NGOs was not for funding. Rather, they wanted support to reopen the government school that had closed five years earlier. They even had three local teachers standing by. The school was reopened and now runs successfully, according to Ms. Ali, largely because the villagers could identify with the teachers from their own community. "Absenteeism is not a problem," she said. "When a teacher doesn't show up, the people go to look for her."

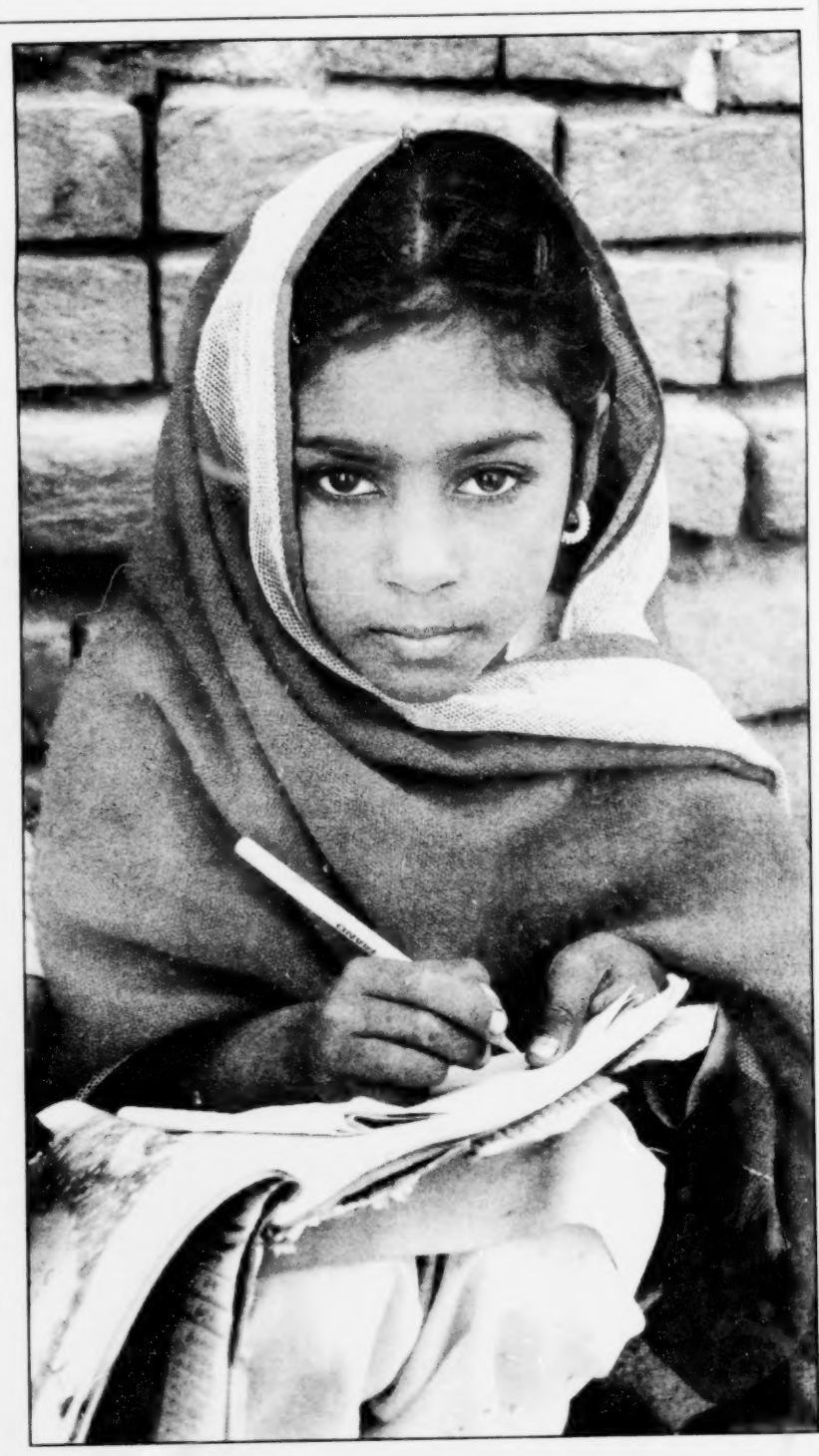
Ms. Ali was also convinced that income generation was necessary to make education sustainable. "What's the use of a school if the parents don't have money to buy slates and books?" she asked. The NGOs helped the women of 14 villages produce embroidered cloth covers for writing pads, wall hangings and greeting cards. The women also sort waste and sell recyclable items.

Ms. Ali negotiated with the First Women's Bank to open a branch in the area. She initiated literacy classes so that women could fill out the forms; the classes are now in great demand.

Infected by the villagers' enthusiasm, Ms. Ali continued to help NGOs and other institutions get access to the resources needed by the villagers. The Water Board repaired water taps that had been dry since they were installed. And an agreement was reached with the Government for a mobile health unit to visit the area twice a week. "With their new self-confidence, the people make sure they get what they are promised," said Ms. Ali. "Once, the health team left 30 minutes early and the villagers were so angry they called me from a public telephone to complain."

She is proud of what villagers have achieved in less than a year. "I didn't give them a cent," she said, re-emphasizing that more than money, the villagers need guidance and confidence to deal with government agencies.

Source: Sindh Government Education Foundation, Plot 9, Block 7, Kehkashan, Clifton 5, Karachi 75600, Pakistan.



A girl in school in Pakistan. Literacy classes and income-generating projects help community groups finance education.

NGO Action for Children

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RESOURCES

UNICEF publications
Available from:
UNICEF
3 UN Plaza, RPPL DH-49B
New York, NY 10017, USA

Available in English unless otherwise noted.

UNICEF Publications 1994. This free catalogue lists the latest publications available for sale. In English only, but a selection of French and Spanish titles are included.

The following publications are available from your nearest UNICEF office or National Committee, or from UNICEF, 3 UN Plaza H-9F, New York, NY 10017, USA.

UNICEF at a Glance. This brochure describes the goals and work of UNICEF in its various assistance programmes for children and women around the globe. 1994. 24 p. Available also in French and Spanish.

Children, Population and Development. Produced for the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994, this brochure affirms UNICEF's commitment to child survival and development efforts in stabilizing the world's population and making development sustainable. Also available in Arabic, French and Spanish.

Too Old for Toys, Too Young for Motherhood. This brochure promotes adolescent girls' welfare and the UNICEF goals for the 4th World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995. 12 p. Also available in French and Spanish.

Priorities for Children: What the World Summit for Social Development Can Do. Produced in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995. This advocacy brochure reviews the strategies for poverty alleviation, social integration and employment which would benefit children, particularly the '20/20' initiative to allocate 20 per cent of donor aid and developing countries' budgets to basic needs. 24 p. Also available in French.

ORT: Celebration and Challenge. Reprint of address by James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, at the 'Celebrating 25 Years of ORT' Conference, Washington, D.C., 2 March 1994. Brochure.

Achieving Water and Sanitation Goals by 1995. Reprint of address by James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, at the Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation, Noordwijk, Netherlands, 22 March 1994. Brochure. Also available in French and Spanish.

EDev News. Vol. 5, No. 1, May 1994. This issue of the Education for Development bulletin focuses on Images and Perceptions.

Future—Development Perspectives on Children. This quarterly journal, published by the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (Kathmandu), promotes discussion on policies and services affecting children of the poor. For copies or subscriptions, contact Future Desk, UNICEF, 73 Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110003, India.

The Silenzing publications are available from the UNICEF International Child Development Centre (ICDC): Spedale degli Innocenti, Piazza SS. Annunziata 12, 50122 Florence, Italy. Fax: (055) 244 817.

Child Labour and Basic Education in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Proposed UNICEF Initiative, by Enrique R. Hoppe, Vicky Colbert de Arboleda and Emilia Garcia Mendez. May 1994. Innocenti Essay No. 6. US$6.

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Innocenti Update No. 13, May 1994. The focus of this issue is on Discrimination, Tolerance of Diversity and Children of Minorities. Free.

Innocenti Publications Catalogue. April 1994. 26 p. Free.

Innocenti Occasional Papers

Resources and Child Rights: An Economic Perspective, by David Parker. April 1994. Child Rights Series No. 6. US$8.

The Right to Child Health: The Development of Primary Health Services in Chile and Thailand, by Claudio Sepulveda. April 1994. Child Rights Series No. 7. US$8.

Urban Stress and its Effects on Children's Lifestyles and Health in Industrialized Countries, by Solvig Ekblad. November 1993. Urban Child Series No. 6. US$8.

Tax Reforms and Equity in Latin America: A Review of the 1980s and Proposals for the 1990s, by Ricardo Carciofi and Oscar Cetrangolo. January 1994. Economic Policy Series No. 19. US$8.

Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Alleviation and Long-term Development: Latin America in the 1990s, by Giovanni Andrea Cornia, Iyobouaye. 1994. Economic Policy Series No. 20. US$8.

Reformes fiscales, generation de ressources et equite en Afrique subsaharienne durant les annees 1990, by Kiari Liman-Tinguiri. March 1994. Economic Policy Series No. 21. Only available in French. US$8.

The Vietnam National Programme of Action: A Decentralization Study, by Kim Evans and Adam Rorke. April 1994. Decentralization and Local Governance Series No. 2. US$8.

An Overview of NPA Decentralization in Developing Countries: Basic Data, by Carlos Castillo and Claire Akehurst. July 1994. Decentralization and Local Governance Series No. 6. US$8.

Other Publications

Communication, a Key to Human Development, by Colin Fraser and Sonathan Restrepo. This booklet illustrates the role communication can play, how its methods and technology can be used to spread information, mobilize people for action, create better linkages and improve the efficiency of training and extension. 48 p. French and Spanish versions will also be available soon. Contact Development Support Communication, Cas. 1303, Rome. Fax: 396 579 23152.

Why Children Matter: Investing in Early Childhood Care and Development. This booklet highlights various country approaches to improve opportunities for the very young and the importance of involving parents and communities in these programmes. 32 p. Published by the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, PO Box 82334, 2508 EH, The Hague, The Netherlands. Fax: 3170 350 2575. Also available in Spanish by end of year.

UNICEF Videos
Audiovisual materials are available from UNICEF offices and National Committees. (Check with your local office for catalogues.)

Unaccompanied Children in Rwanda — UNICEF's actions in tracing and aiding children separated from their families by the conflict. 15 minutes. Video features the assistance given to children in the crisis. In English only.

Children and Land-Mines — A review of the situation in a number of affected countries including Rwanda. 15 minutes. This video looks at the toll on children and what must be done to eradicate land mines, which kill and maim not only during wars but also long afterwards. In English only.

Suriname and Guyana Today. 23 minutes. Co-produced with the BBC TV World Service, this video describes the situation affecting children and women in these countries.

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